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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WASHINGTON

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August 4, 1988

SECRET/NOFORN

MEMORANDUM FOR: LTG Edward J. Heinz

Director

Intelligence Community Staff

SUBJECT:

Use of EXDIS CONTRA Caveat on Embassy Reporting

from Central America (C)

REFERENCE:

Α. State 254020

Your memo of May 16 (ICS-5116/88) (S

Our investigation of reducing the restrictions on distribution and use of reporting from Central American posts dealing with the anti-Sandinista insurgency now protected as "EXDIS CONTRA" has determined that at present the level of protection is appropriate and should continue to shield sensitive information.

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However, we and ARA are making every effort to increase readership for the future. We have cabled Central American posts (Ref A) and asked them to review guidelines for the use of the "EXDIS CONTRA" caption. While we cannot promise an immediate increase in printable reporting, especially in light of the sensitive nature of the information and our very limited personnel resources, we are looking for opportunities to be more forthcoming.

SECRET/NOFORN DECL: OADR